How the metropolitan elite tried to con the British public about the need for a ‘deal’ with the EU – and about food prices post Brexit.

see pages 78–89
We’re currently conducting blind tastings of our worldwide sparkling wines, of possible substitutes for Prosecco. I’m sorry to say, but since the Italian friends are even bigger victims of underminded ‘Europeanism’ than the UK, that Prosecco scores much lower than its possible alternatives.

Weber's experience is the tip of a mighty iceberg. The UK consumer has the power to ensure that all the EU imports to the UK go zero... or almost zero. And that is what is most likely to happen, unless voters see some political action to back up the referendum result. MPs should listen to the people and respect the promise on the leaflet which the government posted to every household just before the referendum. It said: The government will implement what the people have done. Parliament should make that a priority and get us out of the EU by 29 March, next year, at the latest. In fact, many MPs and the occupants of No. 10 seem to have given little or no thought to leaving, but are instead obsessed by the clamour of the CBI, FT, The Treasury and The Times for a deal.

Free trade

Actually, people who have taken the time to study how the EU’s protectionist tariff system works really, really, really don’t want a deal. We want freedom and democracy. At the same time, the UK can avoid the cost of a £39 billion to the EU which governments everywhere have said “Brexit: UK could quit without paying... said Lords” 4 March 2017. The Guardian has said there is no obligation to pay. Also, the UK can regain control of its fishing grounds, helping its communities sacrificed on the altar of the EU’s single market. Free-trading

The UK can thereby join the club of free-trading nations which have slashed tariffs – Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Hong Kong and so on. Free trade never made anyone poorer, as Alexander Dowson, former Asia House Commissioner, says on page 8.

The sensible public, who outnumbered the better-off 6 to 1 in the referendum of the CBI, FT et al by voting yes, have the UK apply to, in 2015 years age and which rejected Osborne and Cameron’s story of an immediate post-referendum recession, as well as a plague of locusts, doesn’t believe a word of the cliff-edge scare story. And even if there were adverse economic consequences for a time, which we don’t believe, we still want out - so, get a move on, please.

A deal ‘is just a trap laid by the EU, the CBI, the FT and others for keeping us in the EU. If the UK wants a deal above all, negotiating power is thereby transferred to the unelected EU presidents. In effect, by prioritising a deal, the UK has enthralled itself. A general word to parliament, Whitehall, the media and doctors and givers - never give up.
ADIMIRABLE ADMIRAL

Hi Tim

We recently had a tip to Hull, for a two-day break, and stayed at your hotel – The Admiral of the Humber. We were very impressed with the standard of the hotel, in terms of both the room and the very efficient staff. When we were at the receptionist desk, an old and friendly looking man approached us and asked if there was anything we wanted. We booked in and he added the hotel room number in a groovy roof garden. Our designers will be so pleased to read your comments.

Kind regards
Andy Thomson, Killamarsh, Sheffield

Tim replies: Many thanks for the compliment. The Admiral has, indeed, done very well since we were last on a visit. It sounds like there may be a new management team these days – which I reckon is a good thing. We’ll see how it goes.

STEAK IS SO SPICY

Dear Tim Martin

I am a huge fan of the Wetherspoon chain. I frequent several regularly and always seek one when visiting a new town or city. I am also a huge fan of Steak Club Tuesday and, when I was recently no longer able to digest the delicious coating on the steak, I thought it would be a simple thing to request an uncoated piece of meat.

No! I was even told that The Devonshire (Skipton, North Yorkshire) staff were not allowed to serve an uncoated steak! I was, quite frankly, astonished. Surely, I can’t be the only customer who now finds it too spicy?

I would greatly appreciate learning exactly what your policy is. Thank you.

Sincerely
Jean I Botley, Keighley, West Yorkshire

Tim replies: This is the first complaint I recall on this point. I’ve checked it out with Jameson Richardson, our catering chief. He says that we lightly season steaks after delivery, as this helps with tenderness. It sounds to him as if there may be excessive seasoning in this case – which we’ll look into. Frankly, it’s difficult not to season one for the request you make.

A SLICE WOULD BE NICE

Dear Tim

As an architecture-lover, I thought it high time that I wrote in appreciation of the sterling work which Wetherspoon does in saving so many wonderful old buildings from demolition, tastefully restoring them, then breathing new life into them as venues to enjoy a chat, a drink and reasonably priced food! Brilliant.

As an opera-lover, I was intrigued to read about Opera House, in Tunbridge Wells, which features a regular opera performances it holds. Just like The Landmark Trust, Wetherspoon is doing a lot to save British heritage for future generations. Thank you!

Incidentally, when The Silk Mercer (Devizes) was due to open, I vowed never to darken its doorway! A friend and I, attracted by ‘taster’ drinks, went in on its first day and I have been an occasional customer ever since. You taught me that beer has many subtle flavours, as has tea.

Yours sincerely
Mrs Pauline St John Oslan, Devizes, Wiltshire

Tim replies: So pleased that you like our pubs. It’s truly a privilege to have been party to so many restorations. You’re the only one to have been sceptical. Before we opened Opera House, which had lain empty for years, someone went hunting for the original plans and, on opening the building into a pub… I’m happy to say that we’re now reconciled with the local community and won a civic award some years later for the restoration. In the end, people almost always judge you fairly.

WAITY QUESTIONS

Dear Tim

I have moved back and forth my whole life between Canada and the UK, love both greatly and will be back on my boat in Wiltshire come next spring.

Many mornings over the six months each summer, I make the 3.5-mile trek up from the marina, where my boat is moored, to the town of Devizes, making the return walk in the afternoon… and never tire of it.

I have to get up to The Silk Mercer, in Devizes, in time for my large breakfast! As someone trained in constitutional law in Canada, I think you have done a fabulous job through your magazine, of informing a significant number of people about the issues surrounding Brexit.

And every Wetherspoon pub which I’ve visited over the years (probably 40 or so) has had the same great atmosphere, character, good food and drinks, and regular opera performances it holds. Just like The Landmark Trust, Wetherspoon is doing a lot to save British heritage for future generations.

I’ve moved back and forth my whole life between Canada and the UK, love both greatly and will be back on my boat in Wiltshire come next spring.

In the end, people almost always judge you fairly.

Yours sincerely
Phil Jones, Devizes, Wiltshire/Ontario, Canada

Tim replies: Many thanks for the compliments. When I was 17, my rugby team from Campbell College, Belfast, toured British Columbia and played five matches against Canadian schools. We had a fabulous time in a great country with overwhelmingly kind hospitality. Those were the days, my friend… Thanks for your comments about the constitutional issues.

The continent of Europe, led by France, has been sleepwalking into a situation where democratic power has been ceded consistently to unelected bureaucrats ever since. Democracy, as North American countries were so essential for the future of humanity. A “statement of the case” in 2016, to restore democracy. We will see in March next year whether that happens…

SHAKING GRUPPLES

Dear Tim

I’m an Irishman working in Canada and therefore I’ve moved around quite a bit. As someone trained in constitutional law in Canada, I think you have done a fabulous job through your magazine, of informing a significant number of people about the issues surrounding Brexit.

And every Wetherspoon pub which I’ve visited over the years (probably 40 or so) has had the same great atmosphere, character, good food and drinks, and regular opera performances it holds. Just like The Landmark Trust, Wetherspoon is doing a lot to save British heritage for future generations.

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A SLICE WOULD BE NICE

Dear Tim

Could you please introduce gluten-free bread into your menus? My husband and I both enjoy a cooked breakfast at your Staple Hill pub and sometimes at the Yate Shopping Centre pub – both near Bristol.

My only criticism is that, because I order the gluten-free breakfast, my husband gets toast with his breakfast, yet I don’t.

Gluten free bread can be frozen and toasted, just as well as ordinary bread. Please give me gluten-free toast with my breakfast… and I will add that your gluten-free menu is good, but would be better with some gluten-free toast and spreads.

Thanks Tim.

Cornelia Morton

Tim replies: I will discuss this with the catering team. From a pragmatic point of view and to maintain quality, we try to ensure that everything we sell shifts quickly, even if frozen. When we looked, in the past, at gluten free bread, the view was that it wouldn’t sell at all in many pubs. That may change. As I say, I’ll ask.

FOUR LEGS GOOD

Dear Tim

I am a regular customer of JW pub’s, in London, a stones throw away from my home, using public transport.

As I am confined to a wheelchair, the facilities you offer to people with disabilities are second to none.

One area of praise is the disabled loo at the pub I visit most frequently – The Iron Duke, in Wellington. However, a note of criticism, the tables.

Many of the tables are too high to use from a wheelchair. This is not a problem, of course, for people whose customers are not wheelchair bound.

Unfortunately, lower tables are often of a type which has only a single centre leg, meaning that a wheelchair cannot get close, since the footrest comes into contact with this leg when still too far away from the table to enable comfortable dining.

Any chance of some small tables with four legs? If you could do this it would make a difference. So, please do keep writing. Should you have any suggestions on how we can improve our service, please let us know.

Thank you

Your letter or e-mail really can make a difference. So, please do keep writing. Should you have any suggestions on how we can improve our service, please let us know.

Tim replies: We are always keen to improve our service. As with many larger organisations, we are continually looking at new ideas, for example with the Wetherspoon app, which is proving very popular. We will look into the tables issue.
DEAR WETHERSPOON NEWS READERS

The elite are trying to con us. We must dispel the myth that we need a deal with the EU. We don’t. A deal is a trap to keep us in the EU, so that food tariffs continue to weigh on shoppers – and are sent to Brussels to feed the 1st cuts in the EU bureaucracy. WE WANT TO LEAVE AND WE WANT FREE TRADE. WE DON’T WANT A DEAL.

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9. DEAR WETHERSPOON NEWS READERS

‘DOUBLE DOWN’ ON THE PROMINENT REMAINERS

There follows a series of fibs have been ‘rolled out’ to about it. We don’t need their permission. By taking this route, imports leaving without a deal means that these taxes can be ended by the UK

5. Since the EU is a protectionist organisation which charges import tariffs on various imports from trade deals that the EU has negotiated with third countries. From the day after the UK leaves the EU, on 30 March 2019, goods will be subject to higher tariffs and potential customs barriers. For consumers this means higher prices.

7. After losing the referendum, the same cabal decided that the best way to defeat the democratic will of the people would be to say that we cannot leave without a deal.

5. FREE TRADE/NO DEAL MEANS FOOD PRICES WILL FALL POST BREXIT…

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5. EUros on trade/no-deal option won’t work because

5. food and drink sellers are mostly small – EUros on trade/no-deal option won’t work because

8. Supermarkets on Brexit: no deal futures show food prices will rise by 10 per cent, with those charging the most for basics will rise by 45 per cent and 55% per cent for meat products.

11. Sainsbury’s boss David Tyler warns a ‘no deal’ Brexit would raise the cost of shopping

11. Ministers David Gauke, and according to new estimates, the Government’s technical note, which explains, ‘no-deal Brexit’ – reduced value of goods and services, increased delays and barriers, and VAT on goods bought for consumption and businesses.

12. The Government’s technical note, which explains, ‘no-deal Brexit’ – reduced value of goods and services, increased delays and barriers, and VAT on goods bought for consumption and businesses.

5. The ‘echo chamber of Remain’ is now fully at work. The pro-EU Times, Sunday Times, Financial Times and Guardianist report on 9 Nov on Wetheraspoon’s results, but don’t report the free-trade option. So, start soon pro-RE-you’d remain unaware of the sophisticated free-trade approach adopted by many countries.

5. CONCLUSION – REMEMBER 23 JUNE

Most MPs, economists, business people and City analysts read the FT, The Times, and Barclays Bank reports. They speak to one another in the echo chamber of Remain and errors of fact are reinforced by the echo, so that ‘lies become the truth’. Almost all the people in the circle of deceit, regarding food prices, went to Oxford and Cambridge universities. They obviously feel that the public is a bit thick and will believe this nonsense. Bad luck, folks, the lounge lizards, harbour sharks, reprobates, amateur philosophers, racing pundits, good-time boyos and gals have rumbled this nonsense. Remember what Abraham Lincoln said: ‘You can fool some of the people, some of the time...’
CAROLYN FAIRBAIRN
Director-general of the CBI

The equal worst financial judgement in the last 40 years emanates from the CBI. The latest director-general is Carolyn Fairbairn, who has an awful record in making predictions about things concerning Brexit. Here she is, one year ago, predicting Armageddon because of ‘the spectre of no deal’. Wrong again, Carolyn. In the last three months, as reported in November 2018, the UK economy has grown at three times the rate of the doomed eurozone.

CAROLYN FAIRBAIRN: A BAD BREXIT WILL COST BRITAIN DEAR IN LOST BUSINESS

Carolyn Fairbairn is a former prime minister of Australia and now serves as director-general of the CBI. Her predictions about Brexit have been consistently wrong, and she has been a vocal opponent of the UK leaving the EU. She has argued that Brexit would be a disaster for the UK economy, predicting that it would lead to job losses, reduced investment, and lower living standards. However, her predictions have been proven to be incorrect, as the UK economy has grown stronger since she made her predictions.

The CBI, which she leads, is a business lobby group that represents UK businesses. It has been vocal in its opposition to Brexit, and Fairbairn has been a key figure in this opposition. She has argued that Brexit would be a disaster for the UK economy, predicting that it would lead to job losses, reduced investment, and lower living standards. However, her predictions have been proven to be incorrect, as the UK economy has grown stronger since she made her predictions.
Now part of the elite is making a sustained and possibly successful effort to oppose a legally enshrined majority choice: made first in the 2016 referendum, then confirmed in the 2017 general election, when 85 per cent of the vote went to parties committed to respecting the result. I cannot think of a precedent in modern times on this scale and with this persistence. Of course, there has been plenty of elite disidence in the recent past. The 20th century saw both Right-wing and Left-wing minorities paying allegiance to foreign ideologies and foreign powers. They were vocal and sometimes influential, but few in number. They are now more numerous. Globalisation and our membership of the EU have created a new elite whose careers, interests and social relationships largely rest outside the boundaries of Britain. For them, the idea of “taking back control of our borders” is a threat and even a mortal affair. What is now being proposed by the government as the best deal available is in historical terms a monstrosity. It is practically unheard of in modern international relations for an independent state to accept the will of a foreign legislature. One would have to think of colonial status (for example of the American colonies before 1776) for an analogy. For a modern democratic state to deny its own citizens even an indirect voice in deciding the laws governing them for an indefinite period would previously have been unimaginable: taxation without representation, to the tune of £30 billion. I am not presuming to judge the motives of today’s Remainers, or whether they are elected or not. They are trying to stop their country from being destroyed. The problem is that the voice of the majority has been drowned out by the brazenness of the Leave campaign. Boris Johnson has lied his way through life and politics. This week he lodged a public application for Theresa May’s job as Brexit’s prime minister. By any judicious test of character, the former foreign secretary is unfit for high office. Britain’s Conservatives do not seem to care. Brexit has anachronishted their working-class identity. None of these Republicans can put Donald Trump in the White House, why not Mr Johnson in 10 Downing Street? When David Cameron conceded a referendum on EU membership to Tory Eurosceptics, the then prime minister was breached. The referendum was lost, Mr Cameron lost his job, and the Tories have become the party of English nationalism. Now, as in the past, one can find Tory internationalists who would accept the will of the majority. Attempting quite openly to thwart it is a dangerous step backwards – and a long way from the Chatham House oratory of the early 1980s. By Robert Tombs

Robert Tombs is professor of French history at St John’s College, Cambridge.

**By Robert Tombs**

The Telegraph / 12 November 2018

**By Philip Stephens**

Financial Times Chief political commentator

**PHILIP STEPHENS**

**“Unsurprisingly, consistency is not a strong point. Mr Johnson poses as a cosmopolitan – sometimes as a One-Nation – Conservative. This is hard to square with casual but ugly references to “picarrenuts”, “watermelon smilers” and former US president Barack Obama’s Kenyan ancestry, or with the demonising of Turkish migrants by the Leave side in the Brexit campaign.”**

Our present turmoil seems to be a breach away from our historical traditions of pragmatism and frankly rather dull politics. Are we not a sensible people, who have a suspicion of “extremes” and “ideology”, and who resolutely “moderation” and “compromise” as the essence of political wisdom? It is true that we have a political system whose outward appearance is one of long continuity. We have avoided violent political conflict for over three centuries. For one thing, evolutionary change is easier outside the boundaries of Britain. For them, a reshaping of the Tory Party. Divisions over political conflict for over three centuries. None of these “gradualists and moderates are a dwindling band in the Conservative party – sometimes as a One-Nation – Conservative. Unsurprisingly, consistency is not a strong point. Mr Johnson poses as a cosmopolitan – sometimes as a One-Nation – Conservative. This is hard to square with casual but ugly references to “picarrenuts”, “watermelon smilers” and former US president Barack Obama’s Kenyan ancestry, or with the demonising of Turkish migrants by the Leave side in the Brexit campaign. As with Mr Trump, the brazenness seems to work. The crowd cheering Mr Johnson’s make-me-leader speech at the Conservative conference in Birmingham were unaffected by small matters of personal ethics. He has established a bigger enemy or ideological or political power in the EU than in the EU; whatever the cost. The politics of identity has triumphed over common sense Mr Johnson is happy enough to be elderly, white men to drag Republicans to the right, right-wing, right-wing, the demographic that cheers least when Mr Johnson dennis Mrs May for offering the smallest compromise. Whether Mr Johnson believes an uncompromising rupture with Brussels is in the national interest is doubtful. Erstwhile Eurosceptics, the then prime minister was breached. The referendum was lost, Mr Cameron lost his job, and the Tories have become the party of English nationalism. Now, as in the past, one can find Tory internationalists who would accept the will of the majority. Attempting quite openly to thwart it is a dangerous step backwards – and a long way from the Chatham House oratory of the early 1980s. By Robert Tombs

Robert Tombs is professor of French history at St John’s College, Cambridge.

**By Robert Tombs**

The Telegraph / 12 November 2018

**EXPERTS DON’T DEFINE DEMOCRACY; THE PEOPLE DO**

**Tut, tut, Philip. Calling Boris a liar is a bit harsh. Like you, Boris is a successful writer.**

**“As with Mr Trump, the brazenness seems to work. The crowd cheering Mr Johnson’s make-me-leader speech at the Conservative conference in Birmingham were unaffected by small matters of personal ethics. He has established a bigger enemy or ideological or political power in the EU than in the EU; whatever the cost. The politics of identity has triumphed over common sense Mr Johnson is happy enough to be elderly, white men to drag Republicans to the right, right-wing, right-wing, the demographic that cheers least when Mr Johnson dennis Mrs May for offering the smallest compromise. Whether Mr Johnson believes an uncompromising rupture with Brussels is in the national interest is doubtful. Erstwhile Eurosceptics, the then prime minister was breached. The referendum was lost, Mr Cameron lost his job, and the Tories have become the party of English nationalism. Now, as in the past, one can find Tory internationalists who would accept the will of the majority. Attempting quite openly to thwart it is a dangerous step backwards – and a long way from the Chatham House oratory of the early 1980s. By Robert Tombs**

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The Telegraph / 12 November 2018

**“Now part of the elite is making a sustained and possibly successful effort to oppose a legally enshrined majority choice: made first in the 2016 referendum, then confirmed in the 2017 general election, when 85 per cent of the vote went to parties committed to respecting the result. I cannot think of a precedent in modern times on this scale and with this persistence.”**

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Alexander Downer is coming to the end of his four-year stint as High Commissioner to the UK. His common sense will be missed

When friends speak, you should listen — and you would be hard pressed to find a better friend of this country in the London diplomatic corps than Alexander Downer, the 77-year-old, who has just finished a four-year stint as the Australian High Commissioner, an Anglophile by instinct and upbringing. He spent much of his childhood here because his father was a diplomat. When Downer’s father left in 1972, he worried about this country joining the European Economic Community and what that would mean for relations with Australia and other Commonwealth countries. So there is a neat symmetry in his son being appointed to the job in 1964.

But Downer is not so much interested about Brexit as he is in Brexit. In 2016 he dutifully joined in the chorus of diplomatic paragons urging Britain to vote to remain. But since then, he has been quick to talk about the opportunities it presents.

On its own, he says Brexit won’t be disastrous for Britain. It statisticians that 90% of British goods are bought by its own citizens. But that would only be the case if the government tried to do that! Some Tory MPs might think the same is true in Britain.

When people ask what Brexit has meant, the more important question is to determine what the customs union gets, the more voters will reject it: The more the public understands that remaining in the customs union means that other people make all of your trading policy for you, they would regard that as completely unacceptable. I don’t think they necessarily know the details of what all these terms mean, because they’ve got other things on their minds, you can’t blame them for that. But I think if you were trying to be a really effective politician, you could make a very strong point on this.

Downer argues that the more attention the customs union gets, the more voters will reject it: “You can’t just say Brexit means that you don’t have Brussels making policies for you any more. So, the more the possibility of your policies would be very important.”

But Downer reckons that “It’s the hint of anti-americanism that comes from Corbyn which I think is electrolytically really dangerous.” He thinks the public’s reaction to Corbyn’s response to the Salisbury attack backs this up. He is, though, deeply worried about the possibility of a Corbyn premiership and what it would mean for the world. “Britain is the second greatest western power, and for Great Britain to become, or the government of Great Britain to be a tremendous critic of western foreign policy and the western alliance. People would feel very uncomfortable about that. People in Australia would be very surprised and dismayed if that were to happen, and that wouldn’t be just people who support the Liberal party, there would be a lot of people in the Australian Labour party as well.”

Perhaps Downer’s most important advice is that the Brexit debate has “laid a little more about Brexit. More importantly, it is an Anglophile by instinct and upbringing. This is a breathtaking remark. It is breathtaking because it came from the foreign secretary, the person entrusted with managing the relations of the UK with foreigners, because negotiations with the EU, a particularly important and powerful group of foreigners, are coming to a moment of crisis; because it came from a politician with a reputation for sobriety; and because it came from a man who campaigned for Remain. It is breathtaking, above all, because the parallel Mr Hunt draws between the EU and Soviet Union was so stupid and offensive.

The Soviets sent tanks into East Berlin in 1963, Budapest in 1956 and Prague in 1968. The EU is hardly threatening the UK with similar brutality. It is merely stating that the proposals put forward by the British government for the withdrawal agreement, especially in “Chequers plan”, will not work. The other side was looking for a marriage contract, they could do worse than this softly spoken Australian.

By James Forsyth

The Spectator / 12 May 2018